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**RELATION OF THE DISCOVERY OF
THE MISSISSIPI RIVER FROM THE
NARRATIVE OF NICOLAS
DE LA SALLE**

o

Relation of the Discovery of the Mississippi River

Written from the *Narrative of* NICOLAS
DE LA SALLE, otherwise known as
the little M. de La Salle

THE TRANSLATION DONE BY
MELVILLE B. ANDERSON

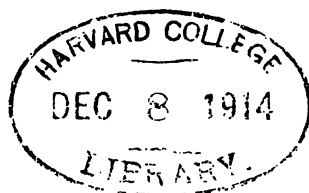


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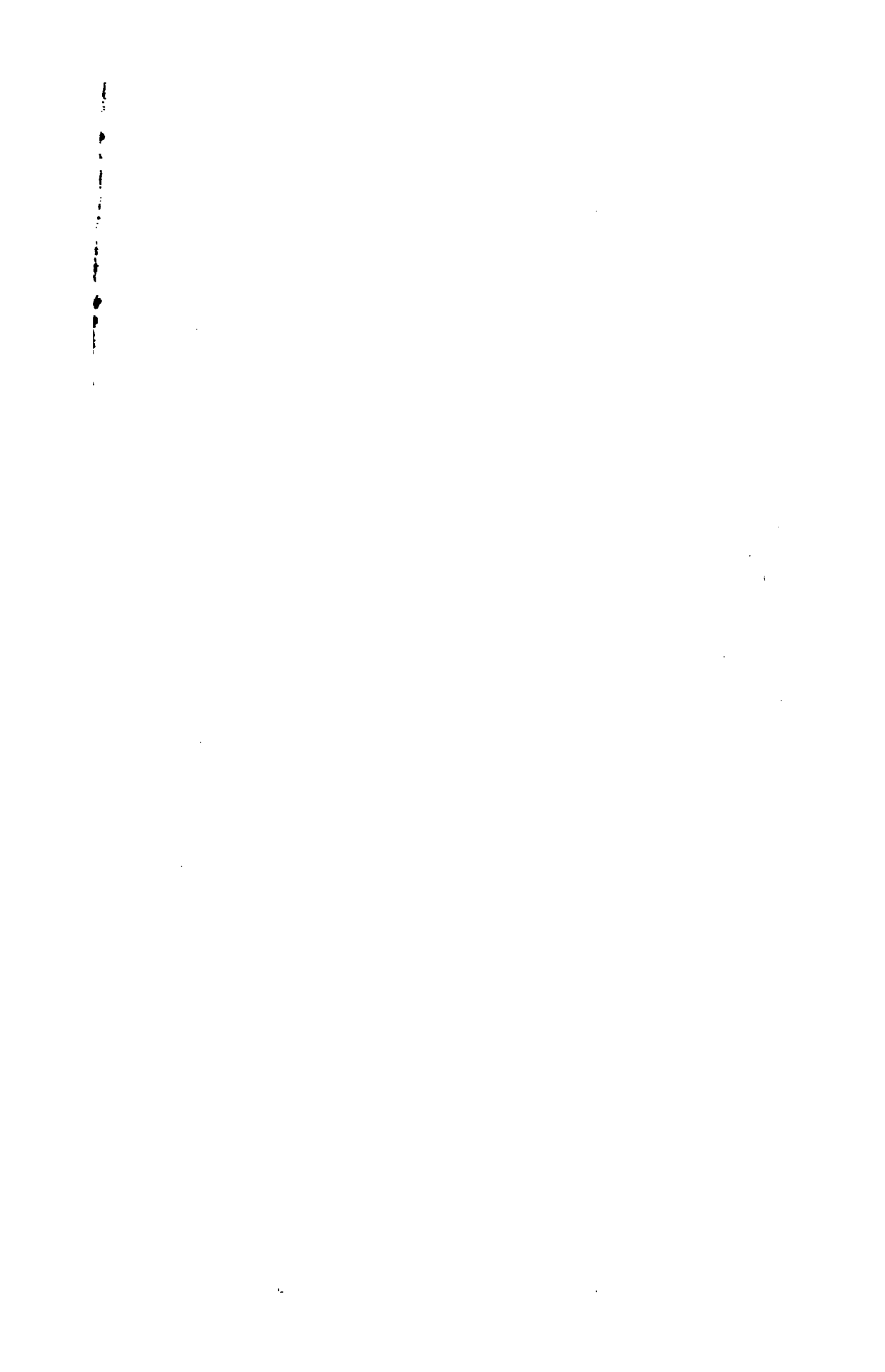
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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Whoever wrote this narrative evidently adhered closely to the rough jottings of "little" Nicolas, who, although a clerk and presumably (like Chaucer's "hende Nicolas") handy with the pen, was perhaps no great stylist. In this translation but one deliberate departure from the original has been ventured upon. The indeterminate pronoun *on*, which is used throughout and which makes the whole narrative impersonal, has been rendered throughout by the more sympathetic pronoun *we*. This has been done because the continual repetition of *ibey* would have involved the whole narrative in a confusion which does not exist in the original. The French text here reprinted is that of Margry, to whom belong the unsigned notes. The translator's few notes are distinguished by the abbreviation *Tr.* The marginal notes and dates have been supplied by the translator.

M. B. A.



**NARRATIVE OF NICOLAS
DE LA SALLE**

Récit de Nicolas de La Salle¹

1682.

Relation de la découverte que M. de La Salle a faite de la rivière de Mississipi en 1682, et de son retour jusqu'à Québec.

DE Québec à Montréal, soixante lieues, et une isle formée par la rivière de Saint-Laurent et celle des Outaouas, qui vient du nord-ouest; celle du Saint-Laurent vient du lac des Hurons, et mesme de plus loing.

De Montréal au fort de Frontenac, soixante lieues. Il y a cinq portages. Le plus grand est d'une lieue. Le fort de Frontenac

¹ Ce Nicolas de La Salle est le même que celui qui remplit les fonctions de Commissaire dans le premier établissement de la Louisiane, de 1701 à 1709. Il n'avait pas de lien de parenté avec le chef de l'entreprise, et était fils, si je ne me trompe, d'un Premier Commis de la Marine, devenu en 1687 Commissaire général des galères.

L'auteur du recueil manuscrit d'où ce récit a été extrait a mis en tête cette note: "J'ai écrit cette relation en 1685; elle me fut donnée par le jeune de La Salle."

Narrative of Nicolas de La Salle*

1682.


*Relation of the Discovery of the Mississippi River
by M. de La Salle in 1682, and of his Return
to Quebec.*

FROM Quebec to Montreal, sixty leagues, and an island formed by the River St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, which comes from the northwest; the St. Lawrence comes from the lake of the Hurons, and even from beyond.

From Montreal to Fort Frontenac, sixty leagues. There are five portages. The longest is of one league. Fort Frontenac is a square with four bastions, the distance from

* This Nicolas de La Salle is he who served as Commissary in the first settlement of Louisiana, from 1701 to 1709. He had no tie of relationship with the head of the enterprise and was, if I am not mistaken, the son of a Chief Clerk of the Marine, who became in 1687 Commissary General of the galleys.

The author of the manuscript collection from which this narrative is drawn, prefixed the following note: "I wrote this relation in 1685; it was given me by young de La Salle."

1681  tenac est un quarré à quatre bastions, qui a d'un angle flanqué à l'autre quinze toises.

Les trois quarts sont de maçonnerie de pierre dure, la muraille espaisse de trois pieds et haute de douze. Il y a un endroit qui n'est haut que de quatre, n'estant pas achevé. Le reste est fermé de pieux. Il y a dedans une maison de bois esquarri de cent pieds de long. Il y a encore une forge, un corps de garde, une maison pour les officiers, un puits et une estable à vache. Les fossez sont larges de quinze pieds. Il y a quantité de terres defrichées et ensemencées aux environs, dans lesquelles, à cent pas ou à peu près, il y a une grange pour serrer la récolte. Il y a tout proche le fort plusieurs habitations de François, un village d'Iroquois, un couvent et une église de Récollects. Ce fort est situé sur le lac de Frontenac, au nord, proche la descharge de ce lac dans le fleuve Saint-Laurent; le pays des cinq nations Iroquoises, de l'autre costé du lac, au sud. M. de La Salle a plusieurs barques au port de ce fort qui luy appartient. Les canots de bouleau ont vingt pieds de long et trois de large; les escorces sont cousues ensemble et les coutures gommées. Il y a des varangues. Un homme ou deux en peuvent porter un, ce qui est fort commode pour les portages à ces endroits.

from one flanked angle to another being fifteen fathoms.

1681



Three-fourths of the construction is of hard stone masonry, the wall being three feet thick and twelve feet high. In one place, which is unfinished, it is only four feet high. The rest is closed in with piles. Inside there is a house of hewn timber, one hundred feet long. There is also a forge, a guard-house, a house for the officers, a well, and a cow-stable. The moats are fifteen feet wide. There is in the neighborhood not a little cleared and cultivated land, upon which, at a distance of about a hundred paces, is a grange for storing the harvest. Quite near the Fort there are several French plantations, an Iroquois village, a convent and church of Recollet friars. This fort is situated on the north side of Lake Frontenac; the country of the five Iroquois nations being on the other side of the Lake, to the south. M. de La Salle has several small vessels in the harbor of this fort, which belongs to him. The birch canoes are twenty feet long and three wide; the strips of bark are sewn together and the seams gummed. There are ribs. One man or two can carry one of these canoes,—a circumstance which facilitates the portages in these regions. They carry, 1st, the merchandise; 2d, the canoe.

*Description
of Fort
Frontenac.*

*Birch
canoes.*

Two

Automne de droits. Ils portent 1^o les marchandises, 2^o

1681.



le canot. Deux hommes suffisent pour naviguer dans un canot. Il peut porter environ douze cents pesant. En descendant on saute les saults, lorsqu'ils ne sont pas fort rudes; mais en montant il faut toujours faire portage. Les marchandises dont on fait trafic avec les Sauvages sont tabac, rassade, couteaux, haches, chaudières, alesnes, chemises, poudre, plomb et fusils.

Du fort de Frontenac, M. de La Salle se rendit par des rivières dans le lac des Hurons, sans passer par le lac Érié. Il cacha la poudre et le plomb qu'il avoit, parce que les Iroquois ne veulent pas qu'on en porte aux Illinois, leurs ennemys.

Du lac Frontenac, ils se rendirent dans une rivière, puis y firent portage pour se rendre dans une autre petite rivière nommée Taronto. Elle a six portages et elle tombe dans le lac des Hurons.

Dans le lac des Hurons il y a plusieurs isles, entre autres une, longue de trente lieues. Il y a un village d'Outaouais. Il y a du bled d'Inde, de mesme que par tous ces pays.—De ce village à Missilimakinak, quatre vingts lieues. Du lac des Hurons, ils descendirent dans le lac des Illinois. De ce lac, en faisant un portage de deux lieues

ou

Two men are enough to navigate a canoe. It can carry about twelve hundred pounds weight. In descending, you run the rapids when they are not too rough; but in going up stream the portage must always be made. The merchandise used for traffic with the Savages consists in tobacco, beads, knives, axes, kettles, awls, shirts, powder, lead, and guns.

Fall of
1681.



From Fort Frontenac M. de La Salle went by way of rivers to the Lake of the Hurons, without passing by Lake Erie. He concealed the powder and lead that he had, as the Iroquois will not have them carried to their enemies the Illinois.

*The great
expedition.*

From Lake Frontenac they went to a river, whence they made a portage to another small river named Taronto. It has six portages and flows into the Lake of the Hurons.

In the Lake of the Hurons there are several islands; among others one that is thirty leagues long. Here is an Ottawa village. There is Indian corn, as everywhere throughout these regions.—From this village to Missilimakinak, eighty leagues. From the Lake of the Hurons they descended into the Lake of the Illinois. From this lake, by making a portage of two leagues or another of one league, one reaches the Teatiqui River, leading

*By way of
the St.
Joseph and
the Kan-
kakee.*

to

Décembre, ou un autre d'une lieue, on gagne la rivière
1681. de Teatiqui, laquelle se joint à celle des
Illinois, qui se rend dans le Mississipi, au
34^e degré de latitude. M. de La Salle
menoit avec luy vingt-deux François et un
Récollect nommé Père Zénobe. Il avoit
aussi dix-huit Sauvages de la nation des
Loups, qui demeurent proche des Anglois.
Il les avoit trouvez près le lac des Illinois.
Ils voulurent bien le suivre, moyennant cent
peaux de castor chacun, pour chasser et
donner aux François la moitié de leur
chasse. Ces dix-huit Sauvages avoient sept
femmes avec eux, qui firent aussi ce voyage.

M. de La Salle séjourna douze jours à
l'embouchure de la rivière des Illinois dans
celle du Mississipi, parce que la rivière
charrioit des glaces.—Pendant ce temps les
Sauvages firent des canots d'escorce d'orme,
parce qu'ils avoient laissé les leurs dans le
lac des Illinois et estoient venus à pied
jusques là.—C'estoit en Décembre 1681.

Enfin on descendit le Mississipi. Le pre-
mier jour, on alla cabaner à six lieues au
costé droit, proche de l'embouchure d'une
rivière qui tombe dans le Mississipi et qui
la rend fort trouble et bourbeuse. Elle se
nomme la rivière des Missouris. Cette
rivière vient du nord-ouest. Elle est fort
peuplée, à ce que disent les Sauvages. Les
Panis

to the Illinois, which flows into the Mississippi at the 34th degree of latitude. M. de La Salle took with him twenty-two Frenchmen and one Recollet named Father Zénobe. He had also eighteen Savages of the Wolf tribe, who dwell near the English. He had found them near the Lake of the Illinois. In consideration of a hundred beaver-skins each, they agreed to follow him as hunters and to give the French half the game they killed. These eighteen Savages had with them seven women, who also made the journey.

December,
1681.


M. de La Salle remained twelve days at the junction of the river of the Illinois with the Mississippi, because the river was drifting ice.—During this time the Savages made canoes of elm-bark, having left their own in the lake of the Illinois and having come so far on foot.—This was in December, 1681.

Finally we descended the Mississippi. The first day we went six leagues, encamping on the right bank near the mouth of a river which falls into the Mississippi, making it very turbid and muddy. It is named the river of the Missouri. This river comes from the northwest. According to the Savages, it flows through a populous region. The Panis are upon this river, very far from its mouth.

*The
Missouri,
turbid and
muddy.*

The

Hiver de
1682.



Panis sont, sur cette rivière, fort loing de son embouchure.

Le lendemain, à sept lieues de là, sur la rive gauche, en descendant le Mississipi, on trouva un village nommé Tamaroa. Les habitants estoient allez à la chasse.—Les François laissèrent des couteaux et de la rassade pendus à une perche pour faire connoistre à ces Sauvages que leurs amis avoient passé par là. On fut cabaner à deux lieues plus loing sur la rive droite. On y resta deux jours. On y tua sept bœufs, quatre chevreuils et quantité de poules d'Inde, cygnes et outardes. Le pays est beau. Sur le bord de la rivière il y avoit des noyers, pruniers, chesnes, érables, ou le pays a de petits costeaux de temps en temps et une grande herbe fine comme celle de nos prez. Il y faisoit un peu froid, mais il n'y avoit ny neige ny glace.

Le troisieme jour on alla cabaner environ à dix lieues de là, dans un pays fort plat qui noyoit dans les desbordemens.

Le lendemain on alla cabaner sur la rive gauche. En cet endroit la rivière est fort estroite, estant resserrée entre deux montagnes, et dans le milieu il y a un gros rocher qui forme une isle.—On séjourna là trois jours pour chasser. Le pays est plein
de

The next day, at a distance of seven leagues farther down, we found on the left bank a village named Tamaroa. The inhabitants had gone away hunting.—The French left knives and glass beads fastened to a pole to inform these Savages that their friends had passed that way. We encamped two leagues farther down, on the right bank, remaining there two days. We killed seven bullocks, four deer, and a number of turkeys, swans, and bustards. The country is fine. Along the river there were walnut-trees, plum-trees, oaks, maples; again there is open rolling country covered with tall fine grass like that of our fields. It was somewhat cold, but there was neither snow nor ice.

Winter of
1682.


*A letter
to the
Tamaroas.*

The third day we encamped about ten leagues farther down, in a very flat country subject to overflow.

The next day we encamped on the left bank. Here the river is very narrow, being shut in between two mountains, and in the middle is a great rock forming an island.—We remained here three days in order to hunt. The country is rocky, but in the interior there is a fine country.

*The river
shut in
between
mountains.*

The fourth day we departed and encamped on the left, about fourteen leagues below.—During this whole day the river was shut in on the right and on the left by
mountains

Hiver de
1682.



de rochers, mais dans les terres c'est un beau pays.

Le quatriesme jour on partit et on fut cabaner à gauche, à environ quatorze lieues de là.—Pendant tout ce jour la rivière estoit bordée à droite et à gauche de montagnes, il y avoit sur le bord de la rivière quantité de cannes.

Le lendemain, après avoir fait onze lieues, le soir, à une heure de soleil, on rencontra à gauche l'embouchure de la rivière de Saint-Louis ou de Ouabache, ou bien de Chicagoua. *Cette rivière qui vient du pays des Iroquois avoit fait croire qu'en la suivant, on pourroit trouver un passage pour la Chine.* On fit encore une lieue et on cabana à droite, vis-à-vis l'embouchure de Ouabache.

Les Cicaca ou Chicacha sont au sud de cette rivière, assez loing de son embouchure. Le pays où on cabana estoit plat et rempli de grands bois, comme ormes et autres semblables.

Le lendemain, après avoir fait six lieues, on vit sur la gauche des costeaux qui s'élevoient en s'esloignant de la rivière. Cette terre est rouge, ce qui paroissoit par les ravines de ces costeaux. On alla cabaner à cinq lieues de là, à gauche, après avoir passé deux isles; la première a une lieue de long
et

mountains, and upon the banks were quantities of cane.

Winter of
1682.



The next day after making eleven leagues, in the afternoon, within an hour of sunset, we discovered on the left the mouth of the St. Louis River, or the Wabash, or perhaps the Chicago. *Of this river, which comes from the country of the Iroquois, the belief had been held that, by following it, a passage to China might be discovered.* We made another league and encamped on the right, opposite the mouth of the Wabash.

*No passage
to China
by way of
the Ohio
River.*

The Chickasaws are south of this river, some distance from its mouth. The country where we encamped was low and wooded with great trees, as elms and the like.

The next day, having made six leagues, we saw on the left hills running back from the river. This soil is red, as appeared from the ravines in these hills. We encamped five leagues farther down, on the left, after having passed two islands: the first a league in length and a quarter of a league in width; the second a league in circumference; the country the same as before.

Islands.

The next day, the wind being favorable, we made twenty leagues, in order to find a higher country for hunting. We encamped on the left, at a place where the
river

Hiver de
1682.



et un quart de large, la seconde a une lieue de tour; pays comme le précédent.

Le lendemain, pour trouver un pays haut pour la chasse, on fit vingt lieues, parce que le vent estoit favorable. On cabana à la gauche, dans un endroit où la rivière fait une grande anse et devant une isle qui a une lieue de long et trois quarts de large. On séjourna un jour à cause de la pluye et du vent contraire. Faute de vivres, il fallut jeusner.

Le second jour, le beau temps venu, on partit, et après avoir fait sept lieues, le canot de M. de Tonty creva en passant sur un arbre qui estoit dans l'eau et que l'on ne voyoit pas, tant l'eau est trouble. Après avoir raccommo­dé le canot, on continua la route, et après avoir fait cinq lieues, toujours des costeaux à sa gauche, on cabana.— Les Loups allèrent à la chasse, et apportèrent sept chevreuils qui firent grand bien. Il y avoit quinze jours que l'on jeusnait faute de vivres. Le lendemain les François allèrent à la chasse avec les Loups. Un François, nommé Prudhomme, armurier, s'escarta. On le chercha pendant dix jours, et enfin on le vit revenir sur la rivière, sur un morceau de bois qu'il avoit poussé au large. Il n'avoit point mangé pendant ces dix jours. M. de La Salle fit faire une
redoute

river makes a great bend, and over against an island a league in length and three-quarters of a league in width. On account of rain and a head wind, we stayed there a day. For want of provisions, we were compelled to fast.

Winter of
1682.




On the second day, the fine weather having returned, we set out, and, when we had made seven leagues, M. de Tonty's canoe was staved in by a tree in the water, which was so turbid that the obstacle was not seen. The canoe having been repaired, we continued on our way, always with hills on the left, and, having made five leagues more, we encamped.—The Wolf Indians went hunting and returned with seven deer, which did us much good. For want of provisions, we had been fasting for a fortnight. On the following day the Frenchmen went hunting with the Wolf Indians. A Frenchman named Prudhomme, an armorer, got lost. For ten days search was made for him, and he was finally found floating down the river upon a piece of wood which he had pushed into the stream. During these ten days he had eaten nothing. M. de La Salle had a block house built for security while searching for this Frenchman. He named it Fort Prudhomme. While on the search we discovered the footprints of Savages, beaten paths, and

*Tonty
strikes a
snag.*

*Prud-
homme's
adventure.*

Hiver de
1682.



redoute de bois pour se mettre en seureté lorsque l'on cherchoit ce François. Il nomma ce fort le fort Prudhomme. En le cherchant on descouvrit des pistes de Sauvages, des chemins battus et mesme une cabane de Sauvages qui s'enfuirent. Un jour, le sieur Barbier en amena deux. Ils dirent qu'ils estoient Chicacha. On leur fit des présens.

Le lendemain, M. de Tonty alla cabaner à dix lieues de là, à l'embouchure d'une petite rivière que les Chicacha appellent Chicacha. M. de La Salle, avec les Loups, estoit demeuré pour chasser. Ils tuèrent dix-huit chevreuils, et le lendemain il vint joindre M. de Tonty, qui avoit vu, proche la petite rivière, des costeaux pleins d'arbres, comme lauriers, meuriers et chesnes.

Le lendemain, tous ensemble furent cabaner à douze lieues de là, à la droite. Il y a des costeaux. On séjourna un jour ensemble pour chasser. On tua un ours fort puissant. Un des deux Chicacha voulut demeurer avec les François, quoyqu'on luy dist qu'il pouvoit s'en aller. On avoit renvoyé l'autre vers ses gens, aussitost après sa prise, avec des présens, pour sçavoir si le François esgaré n'estoit point avec eux, et le Chicacha ne revint point. Mais l'autre,
qui

and even a lodge from which the Savages took flight. One day the Sieur Barbier brought in two who said they were Chickasaws. We made them presents.

Winter of
1682.



The next day M. de Tonty went ten leagues farther down, encamping at the mouth of a small river which the Chickasaws call Chickasaw. M. de La Salle, with the Wolf Indians, had remained to hunt. They killed eighteen deer; the following day he rejoined M. de Tonty, who had seen, near the little river, hills covered with trees such as laurel, mulberry, and oak.

*The
Chicka-
saws.*

The next day all encamped together twelve leagues farther down on the right. Here there are hills. We remained a day in order to hunt, and killed a mighty bear. One of the two Chickasaws wished to remain with the Frenchmen, although he was told that he was free to go away. The other one had been sent back with presents to his people, soon after his capture, to find out whether the lost Frenchman was not with them, and had not returned. But this one who was a little, elderly man, and very resolute, wished to follow the Frenchmen.

*A stout-
bearded
little old
Indian.*

The next day we encamped eight leagues farther down on the right. This country is subject to overflow.

On the next day, after having made six leagues,

Mars,
1682.



qui estoit un petit homme assez âgé, fort résolu, voulut suivre les François.

Le lendemain, on fut cabaner à huit lieues sur la droite. Ce pays est noyé dans les desbordemens.

Le lendemain, après avoir fait six lieues, d'une grande brume, on entendit des cris sur la droite. Le Chicacha dit que c'estoit un village d'Akansa sur le bord de la rivière. M. de La Salle alla sur l'autre costé de la rivière pour se retrancher en cas d'attaque. Les Akansa creurent que c'estoient leurs ennemis. Ils envoyèrent dehors leurs femmes et enfans. Dans ce temps la brume cessa, et un canot des Akansa vint aux François à la portée de la flesche. Ils en tirèrent une. Si on leur en eust tiré aussi, c'estoit signe qu'on demandoit la guerre; mais voyant qu'on ne leur en tiroit point, ils l'allèrent dire à leur village et que c'estoient des gens de paix. Le chef envoya un autre canot avec six hommes et le calumet. Ils entrèrent dans le retranchement et présentèrent à fumer à M. de La Salle et à tous les autres, et firent signe qu'on allast à leur village. On fut fort bien reçu. Ils firent festin. Le lendemain ils dansèrent le calumet. Pour danser le calumet, ils viennent tous sur la place, principalement les guerriers, et les chefs mettent des perches tout autour
comme

leagues, we heard shouts upon the right. The Chickasaw said that it was a village of Akansas on the bank of the river. M. de La Salle landed on the opposite bank to entrench himself for fear of attack. The Akansas, thinking their enemies were upon them, sent away their women and children. Meanwhile the fog lifted, and an Akansa canoe came within bow-shot of the Frenchmen. They shot an arrow. Had the shot been returned, it would have been a signal that we meant war; but, seeing that we did not shoot, they went back to their village and reported us to be men of peace. The chief sent a second canoe with six men and the calumet. They entered the entrenchment and offered the calumet to M. de La Salle and to all the others, and made signs that we should go to their village. We were well received and feasted. The following day they danced the calumet. In order to dance the calumet they all come into the place, especially the warriors, and the chiefs set poles all about, as for drying linen, and upon them display what they intend to give. They brought two calumets adorned with plumage of all colors, and red stones full of tobacco.—These were given to the chiefs, who were in the middle of the place. These chiefs and the warriors have gourds full of pebbles and two drums, which

March,
1682.



*The alarm
of the
Akansas.*

*The
Calumet
Dance.*

Mars,
1682.



comme quand on veut faire sécher du linge, arrangent dessus tout ce qu'ils veulent donner. Ils apportèrent deux calumets de plumage de toutes couleurs et des pierres rouges pleines de tabac.—On les donna aux chefs qui estoient au milieu de la place. Ces chefs et les guerriers ont des gourdes pleines de cailloux et deux tambours. Ce sont des pots de terre couverts d'une peau passée. Les premiers commencèrent une chanson qu'ils accompagnèrent du carillon de leurs gourdes. Ceux-là ayant fini, d'autres recommencèrent la mesme chose, puis ceux qui ont fait de belles actions vont frapper avec un casse-teste un poteau planté au milieu de la place. Et ayant conté leurs prouesses, ils donnèrent des présents à M. de La Salle pour qui ils faisoient la feste. Si quelqu'un en frappant disoit des menteries, celui qui le sçauroit iroit avec une peau essuyer le poteau, et diroit qu'il essuye la menterie.

Pendant cela, les chefs fument dans le calumet et le font porter à tout le monde à la ronde pour y fumer. M. de La Salle receut cinquante ou soixante peaux de bœufs. Les François, excepté M. de La Salle, allèrent frapper au poteau, et contèrent leurs prouesses, et firent leurs présents de ce
que

which are earthen pots covered with dressed skin. The first began a song accompanied by the chime of their gourds. These having ended, others struck up the same thing; then those who have done brave deeds go to a post set in the midst of the place and smite it with their tomahawks. And, after relating their gallant achievements, they gave presents to M. de La Salle, for whom they made the festival. If anyone striking the post told lying stories, he who knew it would go to the post and wipe it with a skin, saying that he was wiping away the lie.

March,
1682.



*How the
Akansas
discouraged
mendacity.*

Meanwhile the chiefs are smoking the calumet and are having it carried to everyone in succession to smoke. M. de La Salle received fifty or sixty oxhides. The Frenchmen, with the exception of M. de La Salle, also struck the post, related their valorous deeds, and made gifts from that which M. de La Salle had given them for that purpose.

The Akansas said that they had four villages, and showed by signs where they were. We found among them an Illinois slave, who served as interpreter. He told us they were called Akansa. They go quite nude, like all the other nations. They made gifts to the French of maize, of beans, and of a quantity of dried fruits, such as medlars,

Mars,
1682.



que M. de La Salle leur avoit donné pour cela.

Les Akansa dirent qu'ils estoient quatre villages, et montrèrent par signes où ils estoient. On trouva parmi eux un esclave Illinois qui servit de truchement. Il dit qu'ils se nommoient Akansa. Ils sont tout nuds comme toutes les autres nations. Ils firent présent aux François de mahis, de fèves et de quantité de fruits secs, comme nèffes, prunes, raisins pour breuvage. Ils écrasent ces raisins dans l'eau et le donnent à boire. On demeura les trois jours parmi eux. On y planta les armes du Roy. On chanta le *Te Deum* et on fit trois descharges de fusils. Ce sont de bonnes gens qui ne sçavoient quelle chose faire aux François.

Le pays est bon, un peu élevé, plein de grands arbres, comme ormes, peschers, pruniers, meuriers, etc., dont on ne sçait pas le nom. C'estoit dans le mois de Mars que cela se passa; l'air avait une odeur suave. Les peschers estoient en fleurs.

Le quatriesme jour on partit. Les Akansa vinrent conduire les François jusqu'au bord de l'eau, en leur passant la main sur le corps. C'est leur caresse. Ils leur disoient de prendre courage. Ils leur donnèrent deux des leurs pour les conduire chez leurs alliez.

Ils

medlars, plums, and raisins for beverage. They make a drink by crushing these raisins in water. We stayed among them three days. We set up the king's arms, singing the *Te Deum*, and discharging three volleys of musketry. These are good folk who were willing to do anything for the French.

March,
1682.



*Kindness
of the
Akansas.*

The country is good, somewhat high, abounding in great trees, such as the elm, the peach, the plum, the mulberry, and others of unknown names. It was in the month of March that this took place; a sweet breath was in the air; the peach trees were in bloom.

The fourth day we departed. The Akansas escorted us to the water's edge, passing their hands over our bodies. This is their caress, signifying that we should take courage. They gave us two of their men to guide us to their allies. They did not molest the Chickasaws,* though these two nations are at war. We made about eight leagues and saw an Akansa village on the left. They were all away hunting. We made six leagues more and reached the river named Akansa. Here is another Akansa village, where we encamped. They gave

*Their
caresses.*

*The
second
Akansa
village.*

*Only one Chickasaw has been mentioned as accompanying the party.—TR.

Mars,
1682.



Ils ne firent point de mal aux Chicacha, quoyque ces deux nations ayent guerre. On fit environ huit lieues, et sur la gauche on trouva un village d'Akansa. Ils estoient tous à la chasse. On fit encore six lieues, et on arriva à la rivière qui se nomme Akansa. Il y a encore un village d'Akansa, on y coucha. Ils receurent fort bien les François, les prièrent de rester pour danser le calumet; mais on les remercia, et on partit le lendemain de bon matin.

Le lendemain, on ne fit que quatre lieues à cause d'un grand vent de sud qui obligea de cabaner à la gauche, en un endroit qui noye. Il y avoit quantité de petits trembles. Le vent cessa, et sur les six heures du soir on partit au clair de la lune. A la pointe du jour on avoit fait dix lieues. On se reposa jusqu'à environ dix heures dans une isle longue d'une lieue et large de demi-lieue, terrain qui noye et qui a de petits arbres trembles. On partit sur les dix heures du matin. Après avoir fait environ sept lieues, on cabana sur les six heures du soir dans une très-belle isle plate, longue de deux lieues et large de demi-lieue, pleine de meuriers, lauriers et autres grands bois. On fit un abbatis de bois autour de soy, crainte de surprise par les Sauvages.

Le lendemain, on partit à cinq heures du
matin.

gave the Frenchmen a good reception, begging them to remain to dance the calumet; but we thanked them and set forth early the next morning.

March,
1682.



That day we made only four leagues, because of a strong south wind which forced us to encamp on the left upon bottom land, where there were many small aspens. The wind fell and, at about six o'clock in the evening, we set forward by moonlight. By daybreak we had made ten leagues. We rested until about ten o'clock upon an island a league in length and half a league in width, subject to overflow and covered with small aspens. About ten in the morning we set forth again. After having made about seven leagues, we encamped at about six in the evening upon a fine level island, two leagues in length and a half-league in width, covered with mulberry-trees, laurels, and other large trees. We made an abatis of wood around us, for fear of surprise by the Savages.

*Ten
leagues by
moonlight.*

The next day we set out at five in the morning. After making about five leagues, we killed two deer which were crossing the river. We landed, skinned them, then, reëmbarking, made four leagues more. The two Akansas wished us to take the left branch (at this point the river forms three very large islands) in order to make war upon

*Many
large
islands.*

Mars,
1682.



matin. Après environ cinq lieues, on tua deux chevreuils qui passèrent la rivière. On mit pied à terre. On les escorcha, puis, ayant rembarqué, on fit encore quatre lieues. Les deux Akansa vouloient qu'on prist sur la gauche (la rivière fait là trois fort grandes isles) pour aller faire la guerre aux Tonica, leurs ennemis, qui y ont un village. Mais M. de La Salle ne voulut point aller par ce costé, ne voulant point de guerre avec qui que ce soit.—Les deux Akansa dirent que sur cette branche gauche du Mississipi, il y avoit encore d'autres nations. On fit encore quatre lieues ce mesme jour sur la branche droite du Mississipi. On cabana sur le bord des costeaux, à gauche. On ne put aller à la chasse, le pays estant noyé entre la rivière et les costeaux.

Le lendemain, ayant fait six lieues, la rivière toujours bordée de grands arbres, quoyque ce pays noye, M. de La Salle tua un cocodrille (*sic*). On le mangea, et à sept lieues de là, on fut cabaner. On fit festin avec le cocodrille, qui sembla fort bon. On estoit cabané dans une isle pareille à la précédente. On y fit aussi un abbatis de bois. La rivière serpente fort en cet endroit, de sorte qu'on estoit fort peu esloigné du lieu d'où l'on estoit parti.

Le

upon their enemies, the Tonicas, who have a village there. But M. de La Salle would not go that way, not wishing to have war with anyone whatever.—The two Akansas told us that upon this left branch of the Mississippi there were still other nations. That same day we made four leagues more on the right branch of the Mississippi. We encamped on the side of the bluffs, on the left. We could not go hunting, the country being overflowed between the river and the bluffs.

March,
1682.



The following day when we had made six leagues,—the river being constantly bordered with large trees, although the country is subject to inundation,—M. de La Salle killed an alligator.* We ate it, encamping seven leagues farther on. We made a feast upon the alligator, which tasted very good. Our camp was upon an island like the preceding one, and again we made an abatis of wood. Here the river winds so much that we were not far from the place whence we had started.

*A feast
upon alli-
gator-meat.*

The next day, after making eight leagues, we killed an alligator. We put it into a boat; then, after making six leagues, we encamped at a bend upon the right.

The

*I do not attempt to render the metathesis of the author, who writes *cocodrille*.—TR.

Mars,
1682.



Le lendemain, après huit lieues, on tua un cocodrille (*sic*). On l'embarqua, puis après encore six lieues, on cabana dans une anse, sur la droite. Les Akansa dirent qu'il y avoit là une nation de leurs alliez nommez les Tinsa. Dans cette anse, il y a un petit ruisseau qui a communication avec un lac qui en est esloigné peut estre d'un quart de lieue. Ce lac a la figure du croissant. Le village des Tinsa est sur ce lac. M. de La Salle y envoya trois François avec les Akansa. Ils furent bien receus.— Le chef du village envoya vingt canots avec des vivres, comme mahis et fruits secs, du sel. Il y avoit aussi des figures d'hommes, de bœufs, de cerfs, de cocodrilles et de poules d'Inde, faites d'une paste avec des fruits. On leur demanda s'ils avoient des eaux salées, ils montrèrent le soleil couchant, et qu'il falloit aller de ce costé-là. On leur demanda si en descendant la rivière on trouveroit l'eau salée, ils respondirent en tournant la teste, faisant entendre qu'ils n'en sçavoient rien, n'y ayant jamais esté. Ils firent aussi entendre qu'il y avoit de meschantes nations qui mangeroient les François. Quatre Loups eurent peur et restèrent en ce village, et les deux Akansa s'en retournèrent chez eux. M. de La Salle n'alla point au village. Plusieurs
d'entre

The Akansas informed us that there was here a nation allied to them named the Tinsas. In this bend there is a small stream, the outlet of a lake which is at a distance of perhaps a quarter of a league. This lake is crescent-shaped and on it is the Tinsa village. M. de La Salle sent with the Akansas three Frenchmen, who were well received.—The chief of the village sent twenty canoes with victuals, such as maize, dried fruits, and salt. There were also figures of men, cattle, deer, alligators, and turkeys, made of fruit pulp. They were asked if there was salt water; they pointed to the setting sun and said one must go in that direction. Being asked whether salt water could not be reached by going down the river, they replied by shaking the head, meaning that they knew nothing of the matter, having never been there. They also gave us to understand that there were bad tribes, who would devour the Frenchmen. Four Wolf Indians took fright and remained in this village, the two Akansas returning home. M. de La Salle did not go to the village. Some of them had pearls, but small ones, around the neck and in the ears. M. de Tonty bargained for about a dozen of these. He bought also a little slave, who cost him two knives and a small kettle. A chief of the village

March,
1682.



*The Tinsa
village.*

*The mouth
of the river
unknown to
the Tinsas.*

*Tonty's
pearls.*

Mars,
1682.



d'entre eux avoient des perles, mais petites, au col et aux oreilles. M. de Tonty en traita environ une douzaine. Il acheta aussi un petit esclave qui lui cousta deux couteaux et une petite chaudière. Un chef de village fit présent à un Loup d'un esclave qu'il avoit pris en guerre. Le Loup lui donna une chaudière. Ils estoient tous les deux Coroa.

Enfin on partit. On trouva un grand courant dans la rivière. A la pointe de l'anse, le pays estoit plein de beaux grands arbres. On battit une isle pour chercher des chevreuils, on n'en trouva point; et, après encore trois lieues, on cabana dans une isle longue d'une lieue et large de trois quarts. On fit un abbatis crainte de surprise, parce qu'on avoit veu de la fumée.

Le lendemain on battit l'isle, et on ne trouva rien.—Les costez de la rivière comme cy-devant.—On s'embarqua. Après avoir fait trois lieues, on vit un canot qui traversoit la rivière pour gagner son village, qui estoit à gauche. Comme on nageoit de force pour l'attraper, on se trouva dans un lieu où il y avoit des Sauvages qui peschoient. Ils estoient environ deux cents, avoient tous leurs flesches et leurs casse-teste en main. Ils firent le sacacayou, la huée. On traversa de l'autre bord. M. de Tonty

village presented a Wolf Indian with a slave, whom he had taken in war. The Wolf gave him a kettle. Both these slaves were Coroas.

March,
1682.



At length we departed. We found a strong current in the river. At the extremity of the bend the country was covered with fine large trees. We scoured an island for deer, but found none; and, after making three leagues more, we encamped on an island a league in length and three-fourths of a league in width. We made an abatis for fear of surprise, having seen smoke.

*Precautions
against
surprise.*

The next day we scoured the island, finding nothing.—The banks of the river as before.—We embarked and, having made three leagues, saw a canoe crossing the river to reach a village on the left. Pushing on to overtake it, we found ourselves in a place where there were Savages fishing. They were about two hundred, with arrows and tomahawks in hand. They gave the *sacacayou*, the war-cry. We crossed to the other side. M. de Tonty went to them with five men bearing the calumet of peace. He smoked with them and made peace, and they rubbed him in sign of friendship. They sent a canoe to invite M. de La Salle to their village, promising that they would give provisions. M. de Tonty returned; we crossed to their side and encamped where

*The
Natchez.*

Mars,
1682.



Tonty alla à eux avec cinq hommes et le calumet de paix. Il fuma avec eux et fit la paix, et ils le frottèrent en signe d'amitié. Ils envoyèrent un canot prier M. de La Salle d'aller à leur village, avec promesse qu'ils donneroient des vivres. M. de Tonty revint. On traversa de leur costé, et on y cabana où ils peschoient. M. de La Salle alla, luy huitiesme, à leur village, à trois lieues de la rivière, sur des costeaux. Il y demeura trois jours, le chef luy faisant entendre qu'il avoit envoyé quérir d'autres chefs pour luy parler. M. de Tonty voyant que M. de La Salle ne revenoit point, au bout de deux jours, envoya huit François le chercher. Ils revinrent tous sans parler à ces chefs, qui n'estoient pas encore venus. On demeura encore deux jours. Ils envoyèrent un peu de bled d'Inde. Il ne paroist pas y avoir grande chasse en ces quartiers. Les Loups cependant firent deux canots d'escorce d'orme, les leurs estant usez. Cette nation s'appeloit les Natché. On nous dit que plus loin nous trouverions les Coroa.

Le cinquiesme jour on partit avec quatre Natché. Après huit lieues on arriva au village des Coroa, à gauche, situé sur le penchant d'une montagne qui vient tomber
au

where they were fishing. M. de La Salle went with seven of his men to their village, which was three leagues from the river upon the hills. There he remained for three days, the chief giving him to understand that he had sent for other chiefs to talk with him. Seeing that M. de La Salle did not return at the end of two days, M. de Tonty sent eight Frenchmen to seek him. They all returned without an interview with these chiefs, who had not yet arrived. We remained two days longer. They sent a little Indian corn. There seems to be no large game in these regions. During this time the Wolf Indians made two canoes of elm-bark, their others being worn out. This nation was named the Natchez. We were told that we should find the Coroa farther on.

March,
1682.



*Their
temporiz-
ing policy.*

On the fifth day we set out with four Natchez. After making eight leagues we came to the Coroa village on the left, situated on the side of a mountain which slopes down to the bank of the river. We went to the village, where they received us well and made a feast. A number of Natchez had come there by land. At this village we remained two days.—A fine rolling prairie country. The lodges are dome-shaped, supported from ground to roof with great reeds. They are fifteen feet high, windowless,

*The Coroa
village.*

*Coroa
architec-
ture.*

Mars,
1682.



au bord de la rivière; on fut au village. On fut bien reçu. On y fit festin. Plusieurs Natché y estoient venus par terre. On resta deux jours à ce village.—Beau pays, belles prairies, petits costeaux. Les cabanes sont faites en dôme, avec de grandes cannes qui les soustiennent depuis la terre jusqu'au haut. Elles sont hautes de quinze pieds, n'ont point de fenestres, mais une porte carrée haute de quatre pieds dans chaque cabane. Ils ont toute la nuit un flambeau allumé. Il est fait de cannes liées ensemble.—Je crois, dit le petit M. de La Salle, que les Tinsa, les Natché et les Coroa ont les mesmes manières, mais leur langage est différent. Les gens sont bons, hospitaliers aux estrangers, mais cruels à leurs ennemis. Ils ont des couvertures qui ressemblent à des hamacs de coton. Ils s'en couvrent pour ceinture; ils ont un cordon qui a deux grandes houppes aux bouts. Les couvertures et cordons sont extrêmement blancs. Ils ont aussi des couvertures de peaux de chevreuil. Ils parent leurs cabanes avec de grands ronds de cuivre fort reluisant, faits comme des couvercles de marmites. Ils ont des perles, dont je troquois quatorze pour un petit meschant peigne de buis, dit le petit M. de La Salle. Le troisieme jour on partit. Le petit
esclave

windowless, but with a square door four feet in height in every lodge. At night there is in each a lighted torch, made of canes tied together.—I think, says little M. de La Salle, that the Tinsas, the Natchez, and the Coroas have the same customs, but their languages are different. The people are kind, hospitable to strangers, but cruel to their enemies. They have coverlets resembling cotton hammocks. With these they cover themselves about the waist, fastening them with a cord which has two great tassels at the ends. These coverlets and cords are extremely white. They have also deer-skin coverlets. They adorn their lodges with great round plates of shining copper, made like pot covers. They have pearls, fourteen of which, says little M. de La Salle, I secured in exchange for a paltry little comb of boxwood. On the third day we departed. M. de Tonty's little slave deserted. He was, like the other, a Coroa, but the Wolf Indian led his slave home to his country. We encamped at a distance of five leagues—white soil.

The next day, after making thirteen leagues, we encamped upon overflowed land. We cut reeds or canes to raise ourselves above the water; on our way we killed a deer upon an island a league in length and half a league in width; a
number

March,
1682.



*Observations of
little La
Salle.*

*A platform
camp.*

Mars,
1682.



esclave de M. de Tonty déserta. Il estoit Coroa aussi bien que l'autre, mais le Loup mena le sien en son pays. On alla cabaner après cinq lieues; terre blanche.

Le lendemain, on fut, après avoir fait treize lieues, cabaner en pays noyé. C'est pourquoy on coupa des roseaux ou cannes pour se lever de l'eau; à moitié chemin on tua un chevreuil dans une isle longue d'une lieue et large d'une demy-lieue; plusieurs autres chevreuils se sauvèrent à la nage.— Le lendemain on fit encore treize lieues, et on cabana dans un endroit où le pays estoit beau. Il y a des costeaux. Il y a apparence que ces costeaux sont. . .

Le lendemain, après neuf lieues, on cabana à la droite, en pays plat, plein de grands bois; de l'autre costé, il y a des montagnes. L'esclave du Loup dit que l'on estoit alors vis-à-vis des Ouma, mais M. de La Salle n'y alla point. Le lendemain on fit lieues, et on cabana en pays noyé à la rive droite; à la gauche il l'estoit encore davantage. On abattit des cannes pour s'élever de l'eau. Ce jour, on rencontra une isle pleine de grands bois, longue de deux lieues et large d'une demi-lieue; plusieurs autres isles rondes d'une lieue et demie de tour.

Le

number of other deer escaped by swimming.—The next day we again made thirteen leagues, encamping in a place where the country was fine. There are hills which are apparently * * *

March,
1682.



The next day, after making nine leagues, we encamped on the right in a flat country full of great trees; on the other side there are mountains. The slave of the Wolf Indian said that we were opposite the Oumas, but M. de La Salle did not go to them. The next day we made leagues, and encamped in an overflowed country on the right bank; on the left it was still more flooded. We cut canes to raise ourselves above water. This day we passed an island two leagues in length and a half-league in width, and covered with great trees. There are several round islands a league and a half in circumference.

*The
Oumas.*

*Another
platform.*

The next day, after making six leagues, we encamped upon flooded land. The next day, after making two leagues, we stopped at the foot of bluffs, while the Wolf Indians searched for roots to dress the foot of the Sieur Barbier. That day we made nine leagues, encamping on the left, a little below the mouth of a river which we saw very plainly on the right, and which appeared to come from the west. At its mouth it is a half league in width; at a distance

*A great
river coming from
the West.*

Mars,
1682.



Le lendemain, après six lieues, on cabana en pays noyé. Le lendemain, après avoir fait deux lieues, on s'arresta à des costeaux, et les Loups cherchèrent des racines pour panser le pied au sieur Barbier. On fit ce jour encore neuf lieues; puis on cabana à gauche, un peu au-dessous de l'embouchure d'une rivière, sur la droite fort claire, qui paraissoit venir de l'ouest. A son embouchure elle est large de demy-lieue; au loin on voyoit dedans comme des isles.

Le lendemain, après dix lieues, on fut cabaner à la gauche. Cette journée on ne vit que des arbres. Le lendemain on fit douze lieues. A moitié chemin on vit des montagnes sur la gauche et une rivière qui en sortoit; on la nomma la rivière aux Risques; on cabana en pays noyé à l'ordinaire.

Le lendemain, après cinq lieues, on rencontra neuf canots amarez à terre sur la droite. Il n'y avoit personne; mais les pistes estoient toutes fraîches. On attendit là une heure; n'ayant point de nouvelles de ces Sauvages, on fit encore une lieue; puis on vit des Sauvages qui peschoient à la droite. Ils s'enfuirent à leur village, abandonnant leur pesche et un panier où il y avoit dedans un poisson, un pied d'homme et la main d'un enfant, le tout boucané.

On

distance we saw what looked like islands in it.

April,
1682.

The next day, after making ten leagues, we encamped on the left. On that day we saw nothing but trees. The following day we made twelve leagues. Midway we saw mountains on the left and a river issuing from them; we called it the Aux Risques; we encamped in a country usually overflowed.



*A river
breaking
through
the bluffs
on the East.*

The next day, after making five leagues, we found nine canoes moored to the bank upon the right. No one was to be seen, but the tracks were still fresh. We waited there an hour; hearing nothing of these Savages we went on for a league, when we saw Savages on the right engaged in fishing. They fled to their village, abandoning their fishing and leaving a basket containing a fish, a man's foot, and a child's hand, all smoke-dried. We landed and sent them a Frenchman and a Wolf to tell them that we came in peace; but they shot arrows, desiring war. We reëmbarked, and had made a league and a half, when we saw on the left another village, and near it many eagles and crows. We went to the village and saw only the carcasses of men, and ruined lodges. Some were still entire, but filled with dead bodies. The canoes were all broken up; they seemed to have been cut with

*Gruesome
contents of
a basket.*

*A sacked
village.*

Avril,
1682.



On descendit à terre; on leur envoya un François et un Loup leur dire qu'on venoit en paix; mais ils tiroient des flesches, voulant la guerre. On se rembarqua et on fit une lieue et demie. On vit sur la gauche un autre village; on vit proche quantité d'aigles et de corbeaux. On alla au village et on ne vit que carcasses d'hommes et cabanes ruinées. Il y en avoit quelques-unes entières, mais pleines de corps morts. Les canots estoient tous brisez. Ils paroissoient coupez avec de très-bonnes haches. Le pays commençoit à se noyer. On se rembarqua après avoir fait encore deux lieues ou environ. On cabana sur la gauche; on fit un abbatis d'arbres et de cannes, crainte de surprise. On séjourna là un jour à cause de la pluye continuelle. C'estoit sur la fin de la semaine, vers le 15 Avril 1682.

Le deuxiesme jour on partit, et, après sept lieues, on cabana en pays noyé. Il faut que ce pays ne noye pas longtemps, car où il noye on y voit des lauriers, des ormes et des meuriers, sur lesquels il y avoit desjà des meures vertes.

Le lendemain, après trois lieues, on vit de loing comme de grandes prairies. Estant proche, on vit le pays noyé plein de roseaux, les arbres esloignez de la rivière et le
bord

with very good axes. The country was beginning to be overflowed. We reëmbarked, after having made two more leagues, or thereabouts.* We encamped on the left, making an abatis of trees and canes to guard against surprise. We remained here a day, on account of the continual rain. This was near the end of the week, about the 15th of April, 1682.

April,
1682.



*Continual
rain.*

The second day we went on, making seven leagues and encamping in a flooded country. This country cannot remain flooded long, as we saw in the midst of the water laurels, elms, and mulberry-trees on which there were already green mulberries.

*Trees
growing in
the water.*

The next day, having made three leagues, we saw from a distance what looked like great prairies. Coming near, we saw the flooded land to be covered with reeds, the trees at a distance from the river, the bank of which was somewhat high. After traveling three leagues farther we found a little cluster of aspens, where we encamped. Some Frenchmen climbed trees and said they saw in the distance a great bay. M. de La Salle went with two others to see whether it was the ocean. On his return he

*First view
of the sea.*

*The last clause probably belongs to the following sentence. The date below should evidently be the 5th instead of the 15th.—Tr.

Avril,
1682.



bord de la rivière un peu élevé. Après encore trois lieues on trouva un petit bouquet de bois de trembles; on y cabana. Quelques François montèrent sur les arbres et dirent qu'ils voyoient de loing une grande baye. M. de La Salle alla, luy troisieme, pour voir si c'estoit la mer. A son retour il dit qu'il avoit trouvé l'eau saumastre. Il y avoit une quantité de tourlourous¹ qui se fichent en terre.

Le lendemain, après avoir fait environ trois lieues, on trouva que la rivière faisoit trois branches. On prit le canal du milieu, et ayant fait une lieue, l'eau montoit, et il y avoit marée d'environ deux pieds; on eschoua le long de la terre sur un gros arbre que l'eau y avoit amené, qui estoit arrêté là; on ne put cabaner en ce lieu, tout estant couvert d'eau. Il n'y avoit que des herbes fort hautes; on remonta et on descendit par le canal de la branche droite; on cabana vis-à-vis une isle à gauche. On tua dans cette isle quantité de corbeaux blancs, de hérons rouges et d'autres qui ont les pieds de canards, le bec long, le col court, et sur le dos du duvet comme de la soye; ils perchent sur les arbres.

Le lendemain, M. de La Salle envoya M. de Tonty par la branche gauche, et luy descendit

¹ Espèce de crabes.

he said he had found the water brackish. There were numbers of land-crabs, which burrow in the ground.

April,
1682.



The next day, having made about three leagues, we found that the river formed three branches. We took the middle channel and, after we had gone about a league, the water rose, and there was a tide of about two feet; near the shore we ran upon a big tree which had floated down and stuck there; we could not encamp here, all being covered with water. There was nothing but very high grass; we went back and descended the channel of the right branch, encamping opposite an island on the left. On this island we killed a number of white crows, red herons, and others having duck's feet, a long bill, a short neck, and a silky down on the back; they roost upon trees.

The Delta.

*An
unknown
bird.*

The next day, M. de La Salle sent M. de Tonty by the left branch, and himself with ten men descended the right, where we had encamped. They started at about eight in the morning. About five in the afternoon M. de La Salle returned, saying that he had found the mouth of the river, which river ran far out into the sea, making an embankment on each side; that he had carried his canoe over the right embankment, and that the water, which
does

*La Salle
reaches
the mouth
of the right
branch.*

Avril,
1682.



scendit avec dix hommes la droite, où on estoit cabané. Ils partirent sur les huit heures du matin. M. de La Salle revint sur les cinq heures du soir, disant qu'il avoit trouvé l'embouchure de la rivière, laquelle rivière s'avançoit beaucoup en mer, faisant de chaque costé une chaussée; qu'il avoit porté son canot de l'autre costé de la chaussée droite, et disoit que l'eau, qui ne communique pas avec la rivière, estoit saumastre.

Quoyque les six hommes dissent d'abord le contraire, ils dirent après que cela estoit vray. Estant là, il alla dans une petite isle, à une lieue de la chaussée. Ils trouvèrent dans cette isle un cancre, une coquille d'huistre qu'ils apportèrent au camp avec de l'eau salée qu'ils avoient trouvée dans cette isle dans une mare. M. de Tonty revint le lendemain matin à neuf heures. Il dit que cette branche gauche se deschargeoit dans une grande mer, à sept lieues, où ils avoient veu une isle qui paroissoit couverte de grands bois. Ils ne peurent y aller à cause du grand vent. Ils beurent de l'eau; elle estoit douce et bourbeuse et pleine de cocodrilles ou de caymans. M. de Tonty fut aussi par le canal du milieu; on remonta la rivière et on alla cabaner à quatre lieues

does not communicate with the river, was brackish.

April,
1682.



Although at first the six* men said the contrary, they afterwards said that this was true. While there, he went to a small island at a distance of a league from the embankment. In this island they found a crab, an oyster-shell which they brought to camp, and salt water which they found in a pond in this island. M. de Tonty returned the following morning at nine o'clock. He said that this left branch emptied into an open sea at a distance of seven leagues, whence they had seen an island which seemed to be covered with great trees. They could not go to it on account of the high wind. They drank of the water; it was fresh and muddy, and full of alligators or caymans. M. de Tonty went through the middle channel also; we reascended the river and encamped at a distance of four leagues on the left, going up. There were small trees here; we made an abatis for the purpose of setting up the arms of the King.—The next day M. de Tonty returned, saying that the middle channel emptied into a great sea of fresh water. We hewed a tree, making a stake, which was planted, and to it we fastened

*The King's
arms set up.*

**Ten* is the number given above.—TR.

Avril,
1682.



lieues sur la gauche en remontant. Il y a avoit là de petits arbres; on fit un abbatis pour y planter les armes du Roy.—Le lendemain, M. de Tonty revint. Il dit que ce canal du milieu se deschargeoit dans une grande mer d'eau douce. On esquarit un arbre dont on fit un poteau qu'on planta, et on y attacha les armes du Roy, faites du cuivre d'une chaudière. On planta aussi une croix et on enterra dessous une plaque de plomb, où il y avoit ces mots escrits: "Au nom de Louis XIV, Roy de France et de Navarre, le 9 Avril 1682, on chanta le *Vexilla regis* au plantement de la croix, puis le *Te Deum* et l'on fit trois descharges des fusils. Les vivres manquoient et on n'avoit par jour qu'une poignée de mahis."

RETOUR

EN REMONTANT LA RIVIÈRE MISSISSIPI.

Le lendemain 10 Avril 1682, on alla cabaner à quatre lieues en pays noyé. Il l'estoit plus qu'à l'ordinaire à cause du dégel du nord.—Ayant navigué sept jours, on arriva au village détruit; on y cabana. Les Loups virent un canot à l'autre rive de la rivière, qui a une demi-lieue de large en cet endroit. On y alla; on vit un chemin frayé et quatre hommes cabanez à terre sous
un

tened the King's arms, made of the copper of a kettle. We planted a cross also, and buried beneath it a leaden tablet inscribed with these words: "In the name of Louis XIV., King of France and of Navarre, the 9th of April, 1682." At the planting of the cross, the *Vexilla Regis* was sung, then the *Te Deum*, and there were three discharges of musketry. Provisions were lacking, and we had only a handful of maize each day.*

April,
1682.



RETURN BY ASCENDING THE MISSISSIPI
RIVER.

On the next day, the 10th of April, 1682, we encamped four leagues above in a flooded country. It was the more so on account of the thaw northward.—After voyaging seven days, we arrived at the ruined village, where we encamped. The Wolf Indians saw a canoe on the other side of the river, which is there half a league wide. We went thither, and found a beaten path, and four persons lodged on the ground under a great tree. The next day all the Frenchmen went over, resolved to

* The last two sentences, obviously a part of the narrative, are in Margry's French text included in the quotation marks, as if a part of the inscription.—TR.

Avril,
1682.



un gros arbre. Le lendemain, tous les François y furent, résolus de se battre pour avoir des vivres. On trouva là quatre femmes nûes comme la main; on les mena au village détruit, où on retourna; elles firent entendre que c'estoit les Ouma et Chigilousa qui avoient détruit ce village. Elles dirent qu'il n'y avoit point de village où on les avoit prises. On partit le mesme jour, et avec ces quatre femmes on alla camper où on avoit trouvé en descendant ces Sauvages qui tirèrent des flèches, mais de l'autre bord de la rivière. Quelque temps après il vint de ces Sauvages à la portée de la flèche, tesmoignant qu'ils vouloient la guerre.

M. de La Salle alla à eux dans un canot avec un calumet de paix. Mais ils n'entendoient point cela. On mit à terre, de leur costé, deux de ces quatre femmes, et on leur donna deux haches et deux couteaux pour porter à ces Sauvages; alors ils envoyèrent deux ostages.

M. de La Salle leur en envoya aussi deux. On alla cabaner de leur costé, et ils envoyèrent un peu de bled d'Inde, mais par leurs guerriers. Les deux François ostages revinrent le soir et dirent que ces Sauvages avoient fermé toutes leurs cabanes, dansé, pris le calumet, puis leurs bonnets et chemises,

to fight in order to obtain food. We found there four women naked as your hand; we returned with them to the ruined village; they made us understand that it was the Oumas and the Chigilousas who had destroyed this village. They said that there was no village where they had been captured. The same day we departed, and, with these four women, we landed opposite the spot where we had met, as we descended, the Savages who discharged the arrows. A short time after, some of these Savages came within bow-shot, indicating that they desired war.

April,
1682.



*Four
women with
nothing to
wear.*

M. de La Salle went to them in a canoe with a calumet of peace. But they did not understand that. We put ashore on their side two of the four women, giving them two axes and two knives to carry to these Savages; then they sent two hostages.

*The Quin-
ipissas do
not under-
stand the
calumet.*

M. de La Salle also sent them two. We went to encamp on their side, and they sent a little Indian corn, but by their warriors. The two French hostages returned at evening, and said that the Savages had shut up all their lodges, danced, taken the calumet, then their caps and shirts, —for they gave each one the scalp of a man and a dress made of cords and of the down of the turkey.—They drank of a
beverage

*The war-
dance.*

Avril,
1682.



mises, pourquoy ils donnèrent chacun une chevelure d'homme et une robe faite de cordes et de duvet de poules d'Inde.—Ils beurent d'un breuvage qui est une espèce de thé.—Ces Sauvages se nomment les Quenipisa ou Cenepisa. Ils ont beaucoup de peaux de chevreuil. On renvoya les deux autres femmes chez elles. La nuit, ces Sauvages, environ trois cents, attaquèrent les François par terre et avec neuf canots. Ils tirèrent toute la nuit des fleches. Les François y respondirent à coups de fusil, ce qui les empeschoit d'approcher. Le jour venu, ils s'enfuirent tous, laissant leurs peaux et canots dans les bois, sur un petit ruisseau. On trouva deux Sauvages tuez. Les François leur enlevèrent la chevelure et plantèrent les testes sur des pieux en cet endroit. Les Loups vouloient manger ces corps; mais ils prirent seulement les cœurs qu'ils firent sécher pour montrer en leur pays qu'ils avoient tué des hommes, et, selon leur coustume quand ils ont remporté une victoire, ils tuèrent leurs chiens et en firent festin. On partit de là sur les huit heures du matin; on fit cinq lieues, et, ne pouvant cabaner à terre, le pays estant inondé, on coucha dans les canots. Après six jours de navigation, pendant lesquels on ne mangeoit que des peaux de bœuf, faite de

beverage which is a kind of tea.—These Savages are called the Quenipisa or Cene-pisa. They have much buckskin. We sent to them the two other women. That night these Savages, to the number of three hundred, attacked the French by land and with nine canoes. They shot arrows all night long. The French replied with gunshots, which prevented them from coming near. Daylight being come, they all took flight, leaving their skins and boats in a little stream in the woods. We found two Savages killed. The French scalped them and set their heads upon stakes at this place. The Wolf Indians desired to eat the bodies; but they took only the hearts, which they dried, in order to show in their country that they had killed men, and, according to their custom when they have gained a victory, they killed their dogs and made a feast upon them. We started thence at about eight o'clock in the morning; we made five leagues, and, being unable to camp upon land, the country being flooded, we slept in the boats. After six days of travel, during which we ate nothing but oxhides, for want of victuals, we came to the bluffs and encamped at the Aux Risques river. We expected to have good fishing there, but caught nothing. The Wolf Indians killed two bears, three bucks, and

April,
1682.



*The night
attack.*

*Subsisting
for six
days upon
oxhides.*

Mai,
1682.



de vivres, on rencontra des costeaux et on cabana à la rivière aux Risques. On croyoit faire bonne pesche; mais on ne prit rien. Les Loups tuèrent deux ours, trois chevreuils et deux poules d'Inde. On resta là deux jours.

Le troisieme on partit. Après avoir fait cinq lieues, on tua un cocodrille, que l'on mangea de bon appétit, quoyque la chair de cet animal sente le musc.

Après cinq jours de navigation, on trouva la grande rivière qui vient de l'ouest; on la nomma le fleuve Seignelay. On cabana à droite, au-dessous de l'embouchure de cette rivière. On tua deux caïmans. Les meures commençoient à estre bonnes. Après sept jours de navigation, on arriva aux Koroa; on cabana et on nettoya ses armes, crainte d'en avoir besoin. Les François estoient très-foibles. Le lendemain, entre sept et huit heures, on arriva au pied de leurs costeaux, où il y a un grand chemin battu. Le chef de la nation estoit sur le bord de l'eau avec trois de ses hommes. Il fit mille caresses à M. de La Salle. Pendant quelque temps on refusa la farine qu'ils présentoient pour leur faire croire qu'on n'en avoit pas besoin; mais la faim obligea à en prendre. Ils avoient préparé un festin dans
la

and two turkeys. We remained there two days.

May,
1682.

The third day we set out. After making five leagues we killed an alligator, which we ate with good appetite, although the flesh of this animal has a musky flavor.



After five days' travel we reached the great river coming from the West; we called it the Seignelay. We encamped on the right, below the mouth of this river.

*The
Seignelay
River.*

We killed two caymans. The mulberries were beginning to be good. After seven days' travel, we reached the Coroas; we encamped and cleaned our arms, for fear of needing them. The Frenchmen were very weak.

*The
Coroas.*

The next day, between seven and eight o'clock, we reached the part of their bluffs where there is a great beaten road. The chief of the nation was at the water's edge, with three of his men. He gave M. de La Salle a thousand caresses.

*Their pre-
tended
hospitality.*

For some time we refused the flour which they offered, in order to make them think we had no need of it; but hunger compelled us to accept it. They had prepared a feast in the public place of their village; it is square, and as large as the place in front of the Palais Royal at Paris. At their instance we went and seated ourselves upon mats. This place is smooth and level; they hold here all their games and dances. They set
before

Mai,
1682.



la place de leur village; elle est quarrée et grande comme la place de devant le Palais-Royal, à Paris. A leurs instances on y alla; on s'assit sur des nattes. Cette place est unie et plate; ils y font tous leurs jeux et danses. Ils présentèrent force mahis accommodé de plusieurs façons. Ils ne paroissoient qu'environ cinquante ou soixante hommes et six ou sept femmes. Après avoir à moitié mangé, on se vit tout à coup entouré d'environ deux mille hommes barbouillez de rouge et de noir, le casse-tête en main avec l'arc et les flèches. Ils paroissoient avoir mauvais dessein. Ils demandoient ce que les François avoient veu dans leur voyage. L'esclave Coroa, que le Loup avoit acheté aux Taensa, leur dit tout et que l'on avoit tué des Quinipisa, leurs alliez; on leur en donna les chevelures. Ils creurent que les François estoient immortels. M. de Tonty dit qu'il falloit se retirer; mais M. de La Salle vouloit coucher là. On mangeoit le fusil et la hache près de soy.—Le chef conseilla d'aller chez les Natché, disant que cette jeunesse avoit mauvais dessein. Les Coroa ont tous la teste plate; leurs mères la leur aplatissent aussitost qu'ils sont nez. On prit les vivres que l'on avoit laissez là en descendant et on alla aux Natché. On passa par un petit ruisseau

before us much maize, prepared in several manners. There appeared only some fifty or sixty men and six or seven women. After having half eaten, we saw ourselves suddenly surrounded by some two thousand men bedaubed with red and black, armed with bows and arrows, and tomahawks in hand. They seemed to have an ill design. They inquired what the Frenchmen had seen upon their journey. The Coroa slave whom the Wolf had bought of the Taensas, told them all,—how we had killed two of the Quinipisas, their allies; the scalps were given them. They believed the Frenchmen to be immortal. M. de Tonty said that we must retire; but M. de La Salle wished to sleep there. We ate with gun and hatchet at hand.—The chief advised us to go on to the Natchez, saying that these young warriors had an ill design. All the Coroas have flat heads; their mothers flatten their heads as soon as they are born. We took the provisions which we had left there as we descended, and went on to the Natchez. We passed through a small channel made by the river, and so shortened the way by six leagues. We encamped opposite the Natchez, on the other side of the river. We saw no one; we feared lest they were in ambush. We made

May,
1682.



*Their
treachery.*

*La Salle
and his
men saved
by the two
Quinipisa
scalps.*

*The
Natchez
passed in
safety.*

cries

Juin,
1682.



ruisseau que la rivière fait, ce qui abrégé le chemin de six lieues. On cabana vis-à-vis les Natché, de l'autre costé de la rivière. On ne vit personne; on craignit qu'ils ne fussent en embuscade. On fit des cris de ces Sauvages que l'on auroit tuez.

Le lendemain, après trois lieues, on rencontra sur la rivière un Taensa sur un morceau de bois sur un cajeu. Il dit que lorsque les Coroas estoient embarrassé à tendre des embusches aux François, il s'estoit sauvé, il y avoit trois jours, et que, croyant estre plus haut que son village, il se laissoit dériver.

Le premier jour de juin 1682, on arriva aux Taensa; M. de La Salle envoya quatre François, dont le petit La Salle estoit un, ramener ce Taensa. Estant proche, il chanta; c'estoit la nuit, deux vieillards vinrent avec des flambeaux sur le bord du lac, pour voir ce que c'estoit. Ils menèrent les François à la cabane du chef. Le petit La Salle dit que ce chef estoit au coin de la cabane sur une estrade, sur une natte aussi bien travaillée que ces paniers d'osier que font les Religieuses en France; qu'il avoit vu dans cette cabane une vieille espée à l'Espagnole et trois vieux fusils. Le chef fit raconter aux François leur voyage; il
tesmoigna

cries like those Savages whom we would have killed.*

June,
1682.



The next day, when we had made three leagues, we met upon the river a Taensa floating upon a piece of wood called a *cajeu*. He said that when the Coroas were preoccupied with laying an ambush for the French, three days before, he had escaped, and that, thinking himself above his village, he was letting himself float down.

*The lone
Taensa.*

The first day of June, 1682, we arrived among the Taensas; M. de La Salle sent four Frenchmen, of whom the little La Salle was one, to conduct this Taensa home. Having come near, he sang; it was night, and two old men came with torches to the shore of the lake to see what it was. They led the Frenchmen to the chief's lodge. Little La Salle said that the chief was on a platform in a corner of the lodge, seated upon a mat as well wrought as those willow paniers made by the nuns in France; that he had seen in this lodge an old Spanish sword and three old muskets. The chief made the Frenchmen describe their journey, and showed pleasure in learning that
men

*Little La
Salle's
description
of Taensa
state and
decorum.*

*This sentence seems to mean: "We raised the war-whoop in imitation of the Indians with whom we had fought."—TR.

Juin,
1682.



tesmoigna de la joye d'apprendre qu'on avoit tué des hommes. Tous ceux qui entroient dans la cabane saluoient le chef, levant leurs mains par-dessus leur teste et disant: "Hou! Hou! Hou!" Le chef respondoit: "Negoudez! Negoudez!" On fit manger les François et on leur donna des nattes pour se coucher. Ces gens sont fort sérieux et fort respectueux envers leur chef. Ils portèrent le canot des François dans leur temple et le chef fit porter des rafraischissements aux autres François. M. de La Salle envoya le lendemain un canot avec cinq François nous quérir. Nous nous promenâmes par toutes les cabanes du village, et c'estoit à qui nous feroit plus de caresses et de vivres et des grandes mannes pour les mettre, c'estoit du mahis et des fruits. Ce village a une lieue de long le long du lac. Le temple, la cabane et sept ou huit cabanes des anciens sont entourez de pieux et font une espèce de fort; sur les pieux, il y a des testes d'hommes plantées, le temple est fait en dôme, la porte peinte de rouge, gardée jour et nuit par deux hommes. Un des François y entra presque malgré les gardes, dont un le suivit et essuyoit avec ses mains la terre où le François avoit mis les pieds et se frottoit après le corps avec sa main.

Le

men had been slain. All who entered the cabin saluted the chief, raising the hands above the head, and saying: "Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!" The chief replied: "Nay-goo-day! Nay-goo-day!" The Frenchmen were provided with food and with mats upon which to lie. These people are very serious and very respectful toward their chief. They bore the Frenchmen's canoe into their temple, and the chief had provisions sent to the other Frenchmen. On the morrow M. de La Salle sent a canoe with five Frenchmen to seek us. We visited all the lodges of the village, and all the people vied in caressing us, and in giving us provisions of maize and fruits and great hampers to contain them. This village lies for a league along the lake. The temple, the lodge, and seven or eight lodges of the elders, are surrounded with piles, forming a kind of fort; on the stakes are set human heads; the temple is dome-shaped; the door is covered with paintings in red, and guarded day and night by two men. One of the Frenchmen entered, almost in spite of the guards, one of whom followed him, wiping with his hands the ground where the Frenchman had set foot, and afterwards rubbing his own body with his hand.

The Frenchman reported that this temple is oval, thirty feet long, twelve feet wide,
inside

June,
1682.



*The lake
village.*

*The
Taensa
temple.*

Juin,
1682.



Le François dit que ce temple est ovale, long de trente pieds, large de douze en dedans, orné d'ouvrages faits de cannes et tout peint de rouge. Le dôme est couvert d'une fort belle natte et les bas, de terre. Les bois qui font le faistage sortent dehors par le milieu de deux pieds en croisant les uns sur les autres. Toutes les nuits, il y a dedans deux flambeaux allumez. Nous vismes que les femmes présentoient leurs enfans au soleil et qu'elles leur frottoient le corps avec leurs mains, qu'elles avoient montrées aussi au soleil.

Nous allasmes dire adieu au chef, il fit rendre le canot et donner quantité de vivres. Il vint voir M. de La Salle accompagné de trente canots, luy apporta tant de vivres qu'il en fallut jeter, les canots estant trop chargez. Des Sauvages balayèrent la terre par où leur chef devoit passer. Il parla avec M. de La Salle assis sur une natte. M. de La Salle luy donna une vieille robe de chambre de toile peinte et un petit esclave Mosopolea, qu'on avoit eu des Acansa; le chef luy donna sa robe ou couverture, façon de coton.

Le quatriesme jour, on partit et, après trois lieues, on fut obligé de jeter des vivres pour alléger les canots. Le lendemain, M.
de

inside measurements, decorated with canework, and painted throughout in red. The dome is covered with a very handsome mat, and the lower parts with earth. The pieces forming the ribs of the dome are crossed in the middle at the top, and project some two feet above the dome. Every night two torches are lighted within. We noticed that the women held up their children to the sun, and that they held their hands up to the sun and then rubbed the bodies of the children.

June,
1682.



We went to bid adieu to the chief, who caused the canoe to be returned and a quantity of provisions to be given us. He paid a visit to M. de La Salle, accompanied by thirty canoes, and brought such a quantity of provisions that it was necessary to throw some of them away, the canoes being overladen. Savages swept the ground where their chief was to pass. He talked with M. de La Salle seated upon a mat. M. de La Salle gave him an old dressing-gown of printed calico and a little Mosopolea slave whom he had got from the Akansas; the chief gave him his robe or coverlet of cotton fabric.

*A visit of
state.*

On the fourth day we departed, and, after making three leagues, were compelled to throw some provisions overboard in order to lighten the canoes. The next day M. de La Salle,

*Compelled
to jettison
provisions.*

La Salle, with the best canoe and five men, went on in advance.

June,
1682.

The other Frenchmen, after six days' travel, met an Akansa and a Taensa who were returning from war. The Akansa embarked with them and, the land being overflowed, showed them a course shorter by twenty leagues than that which they would have been obliged to take had they followed the windings of the river. M. de La Salle, who had taken the ordinary route, arrived after the rest and encamped with them. The next day he again went on in advance. The others arrived in six days at the first Akansa village. M. de La Salle had gone on the day before; they remained one day. The Akansas made a dog-feast in honor of the French, saying that they were true warriors for having been so far without being killed.



*A short
cut.*

*The
Akansas
make a dog-
feast.*

On the second day, we went to the middle village on the right bank, going up; they set up a great feast of bear and beef, and showed us a thousand tokens of friendship.

On the morrow we reached the third Akansa village, where we partook of another great dog-feast. Here we took the baggage, which we had left there on the way down the river, and two of the four Wolf Indians who had remained there, the
other

Juillet,
1682.



Après cinq jours de navigation, on trouva sur une pointe de sable, au bout d'un baston, un billet qui marquoit que M. de La Salle estoit malade.

Au bout de deux jours, on le trouva encore fort mal. Il avoit pensé mourir. Il envoya M. de Tonty devant, luy sixiesme, aux Miamis, chercher des marchandises qu'il avoit cachées dans le sable. Sept ou huit jours après, M. de La Salle partit avec les autres François. Après cinq lieues, on cabana à la droite; on y demeura deux jours.

Après quinze jours de marche, on arriva aux Tamaroa; on y coucha. Ils voulurent danser le calumet, M. de La Salle alla au village, on luy présenta une natte pour s'asseoir, on luy donna deux esclaves Panis, une femme et un jeune garçon; il leur donna deux fusils.

Au bout de deux jours, on arriva à la rivière des Illinois; on la remonta; on y trouva quantité d'outardes, cygnes et canards qui muoient, on les tuoit à coups de baston. On tua à coups de fusil quantité de bœufs et de chevreuils et poules d'Inde. Il y avoit quinze jours qu'on estoit parti de Tamaroa quand on arriva au fort de Crève-Cœur, sur un petit lac nommé Pimiteoui;
on

other two not wishing to leave this country without having killed men.

July,
1682.

After voyaging five days we found upon a sandspit a note attached to the end of a stick, informing us that M. de La Salle was ill.



*La Salle's
severe
illness.*

In two days more we found him, still very ill. He had been near dying. He sent M. de Tonty on before with five men to the river of the Miamis to look for goods which he had hidden in the sand. Seven or eight days later, M. de La Salle set out with the other Frenchmen. After making five leagues we encamped on the right, and remained there two days.

After voyaging a fortnight we reached the Tamaroa village, where we encamped. They wished to dance the calumet; M. de La Salle went to the village, where they seated him upon a mat, and presented him with two Panis slaves, a woman and a youth; he gave them two guns.

In two days we reached the river of the Illinois; as we ascended it we found multitudes of bustards, swans, and ducks, which were moulting, and killed them with sticks. We shot a number of cattle, deer, and turkeys. A fortnight after leaving the Tamaroa village, we reached Fort Crève-Cœur, situated upon a small lake named Pimiteoui;

Juillet,
1682.



on trouva tout détruit et la barque brulée.

On alla au village des Illinois, il n'y avoit personne; c'estoit le 15 Juillet 1682.

M. de La Salle, ayant laissé au fort de Crève-Cœur huit François¹, alla par terre au lac des Illinois. De là, en canot aux Miamis; de là, à Michilimakinak, il y a cent vingt lieues par terre. Il renvoya M. de Tonty avec neuf François à Crève-Cœur, joindre les autres. M. de La Salle y arriva aussi au bout de quelque temps, fit décamper les François et les mena vis-à-vis l'endroit où estoit le village des Illinois. On y tua quantité de bœufs et de cerfs que l'on fit boucaner pour l'hyver. Il fit faire un fort de bois sur un rocher sur le bord de la rivière des Illinois, vis-à-vis de leur village; de l'autre costé de la rivière, il fit semer du mahis. Les Illinois qui avoient esté battus par les Iroquois revinrent. M. de La Salle fit faire alliance aux Illinois avec les Miamis, les Chaouanons et les Mascoutins, pour se secourir les uns les autres contre les Iroquois. Après cela, M. de La Salle partit pour Québec et France, où il mena le petit M.

¹ Du fort de Crève-Cœur aux Miamis, par terre, 100 lieues; des Maskoutins à Crève-Cœur, 150 lieues; de Michilimakinak aux Illinois, 120 lieues.

Pimiteoui; we found that everything had been destroyed and the bark burned.

July,
1682.



We went to the Illinois village,—no one was there; it was the 15th of July, 1682.

Leaving at Fort Crève-Cœur eight Frenchmen, M. de La Salle went by land to the lake of the Illinois.* Thence in a canoe to the Miami river; thence by land to Michilimakinak it is one hundred and twenty leagues. He sent back M. de Tonty with nine Frenchmen to join the others at Crève-Cœur. After some time

*Rough
estimates
of distances.*


M. de La Salle also returned, made the Frenchmen break camp, and led them opposite the spot where the Illinois village was. We killed a quantity of cattle and deer, which were smoke-dried for the winter. He caused a wooden fort to be built upon a rock on the bank of the Illinois river opposite the village; on the other side of the river he caused maize to be sowed. The Illinois, who had been beaten by the Iroquois, returned. M. de La Salle caused the Illinois to make an alliance with the Miamis, the Shawanoes, and the Maskoutins, for defence against the Iroquois.

*A fort
built upon
a rock.*

*The
gathering
of the
tribes.*

After

*From Fort Crève-Cœur to the Miami River, by land, 100 leagues; from the Maskoutin village to Crève-Cœur, 150 leagues; from Michilimakinak to the Illinois village, 120 leagues.

Novembre, M. de La Salle. Ils arrivèrent à Québec
1682. le 13 Novembre 1682¹, et à La Rochelle
 le 17 Janvier 1683¹.

¹ Il faut lire, sans aucun doute, 1683 et 1684. Le mémoire adressé au Roi vers 1720 par l'abbé Jean Cavelier, dit que son frère arrivait à Versailles au mois de Décembre 1683. Il est certain que M. de La Barre, gouverneur de la Nouvelle-France, ne l'avait pas encore vu le 4 Novembre de cette dernière année, date à laquelle il écrivait très-fortement et avec beaucoup de malveillance contre le découvreur.

After this, M. de La Salle departed for Quebec and France, taking with him the little M. de La Salle. They reached Quebec on the 13th of November, 1682,* and La Rochelle the 17th of January, 1683.*

November,
1682.

*Inaccurate
dates.*

*We must certainly read 1683 and 1684. The Memorial addressed to the King about 1720 by the Abbé Jean Cavelier, says that his brother arrived at Versailles in the month of December, 1683. It is certain that M. de La Barre, Governor of New France, had not yet seen him on the 4th of November of this last year, at which date he was writing violently and with great malevolence against the discoverer.

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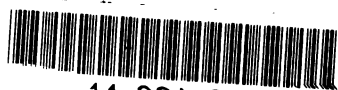
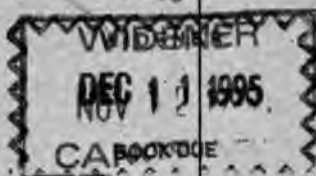
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